

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00588 241535Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-09 EB-07 /097 W

-----242226Z 023107 /64

R 241513Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7406

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, MT, LY

SUBJECT: MINTOFF ACKNOWLEDGES IMPASSE IN MALTESE/LIBYAN
MEDIAN LINE DISPUTE

REF: 76 VALLETTA 0696,

1. A YEAR AGO MALTA AND LIBYA AGREED TO SEND THEIR
BOUNDARY DISPUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
FOR PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE. DESPITE THE ALLEGED "SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP" WHICH MINTOFF CLAIMS TO ENJOY WITH QADHAFI,
LIBYA HAS YET TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT. AS A
CONSEQUENCE, MALTA'S PLANNED EXPLORATION FOR OIL -- WITH
THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE MALTA ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT --
HAS BEEN STYMIED.

2. UNDER PRESSURE FROM OPPOSITION NATIONALIST
PARLIAMENTARIANS, PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF STATED IN
PARLIAMENT ON MAY 16, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THAT
"THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT MADE SEVERAL EFFORTS TO REACH
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AN AGREEMENT (ALLOWING FOR OFF SHORE OIL EXPLORATION)
WITHOUT ALLOWING THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF MALTA TO
BE TRODDEN OVER", BUT THAT "NEITHER IN THIS PARTICULAR
ZONE (MALTA-LIBYA) NOR IN THE TUNISIA-LIBYA ZONE HAD AN
AGREEMENT WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT BEEN REACHED
PEACEFULLY."

3. COMMENT: MALTA'S "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH LIBYA
OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT COVER THE MEDIAN LINE DISPUTE. THE
UNUSUAL WORDING USED BY MINTOFF IN HIS STATEMENT SUGGESTS
THAT MALTA'S TIES TO LIBYA, AND THE ALLEGED ADVANTAGES
ACCRUING THEREFROM, ARE LESS THAN ALL-INCLUSIVE. IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT QADHAFI IS NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN
HAVING THE MALTESE DISCOVER OIL, SINCE THIS WOULD ONLY
REDUCE OR ELIMINATE HIS INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OVER MINTOFF.
LAINGEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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